

REMARKS

The Examiner's Office Action of 10/27/055 has been carefully reviewed. Note is taken that Claim 1 has been allowed.

The Examiner has rejected Claims 2, 3 and 5 "under 35 U.S.C. (a) as being unpatentable over Naganawa (#4,183,578) in view of Posey (#3,635,526)." This rejection is traversed. In support of the Examiner's proposed combination, it is alleged that "it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill of the art at the time the invention was made to employ Posey's side supports to the tubular supports of Naganawa's chair, in order to provide side panels to shield the sides of the occupant." Such a position is of interest, but it is not deemed that it anticipates applicant's invention as claimed. In Posey, the side panels are provided for restraining the hospital patient in a chair. Such is not the concern of applicant's invention which has no facility via the side panels for such patient retention. Consequently, there is no suggestion within Naganawa or Posey for the combination proposed by the Examiner. More importantly, even if there were a teaching for the combination, the resulting structure would still fail to meet the terms of applicant's invention.

More specifically, applicant's side panels are blow molded. Such allows for spaced interior and exterior surfaces of different configurations as claimed. Such is not possible in the

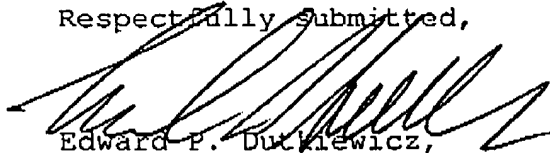
side panels of Posey. Additionally, applicant specifically claims "each side panel having a discontinuous recess with an inverted U-shaped component 70 extending above the seat panel (36) and a horizontal component 72 below the seat panel." Note Figures 1, 2 and 4. Such an arrangement of strengthening components in the panels maximizes the efficiency of applicant's invention in a manner not disclosed or in any way suggested by the prior art including that cited and applied by the Examiner.

In addition to the above distinction between applicant's claimed invention and the prior art quoted above, features in Claim 2 as originally filed, two additional features are now set forth in Claim 2 and not found in the prior art. First is "each panel further including an elongated extension (74) extending downwardly from the entire length of the interior wall." Such extension 74 is readily seen in Figures 5 and 6. No such extension extending downwardly from an interior wall is seen in Posey or Naganawa. Lastly, specifically claimed is "each panel also includes a shortened extension (76) extending upwardly from the interior wall. Such extension is readily seen in Figures 5 and 6 as well as in Figure 1 to assist in the positioning and locating of the panel with respect to the upper portion of the inverted U-shaped component 70. Such an upwardly extending component is found nowhere in the prior art.

It would appear that the Examiner has merely gleaned miscellaneous features in the prior art and has attempted to combine them without a teaching for their combination. The only teaching is in applicant's disclosure which, by definition, is not prior art. But even if there were a teaching for the combination, the resulting structure would still fail to anticipate applicant's invention for the reasons set forth herein above.

It is deemed that the amendments herein overcome all grounds of objection and rejection. Reconsideration and a Notice of Allowance are requested.

Respectfully Submitted,



Edward P. Dutkiewicz,
Reg. 46,676
640 Douglas Avenue
Dunedin, FL 34698
Telephone: (727) 734-2855
Facsimile: (727) 734-2750